

PROTECTION OF AMERICAN CITIZENS IN THE OTTOMAN
EMPIRE.

M E S S A G E

FROM THE

PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

IN RESPONSE TO

A resolution of the House of Representatives, transmitting a report from the Secretary of State, with accompanying papers, concerning steps taken to protect American citizens in the Ottoman Empire.

MAY 31, 1876.—Referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed.

To the House of Representatives:

I transmit, in answer to a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d instant, a report of the Secretary of State with its accompanying papers.

U. S. GRANT.

WASHINGTON, May 31, 1876.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 29, 1876.

The Secretary of State, to whom was referred the following resolution of the House of Representatives of the 22d instant:

Whereas it has been reported that violence has been done, and is menaced, to Christians who are subjects of various Christian powers, resident in the dominions of the Ottoman Empire; and whereas there are American citizens who are resident in said dominions for purposes of commerce and for other objects, and who may be liable to danger by reason of the facts reported: Therefore,

Be it resolved, That the President of the United States be requested, if not incompatible with the public interests, to inform this House whether he has any official or other information in respect to the matters before stated; whether any steps have been taken by the Executive for the protection of any American citizens resident in said dominions; and that the President be requested to take such measures as shall be within his power to extend and secure such protection to all American citizens so resident therein, has the honor to lay before the President the correspondence that has taken place about the matters to which the resolution refers. The telegram from Mr. Maynard is the only official information on the subject

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that has been received by the Department, and nothing further is known in regard to it, except as gathered from the reports in the public prints. The correspondence will also indicate the course that has been pursued by the Government for the protection of American citizens in the Ottoman dominions.

Respectfully submitted.

HAMILTON FISH.

To the PRESIDENT.

List of the accompanying papers.

Telegram from Mr. Maynard, received May 12, 1876.

Mr. Cadwalader to Mr. Robeson, May 12, 1876.

Mr. Fish to Mr. Robeson, May 16, 1876.

Mr. Robeson to Mr. Fish, May 20, 1876.

Mr. Fish to Mr. Maynard, No. 58, May 20, 1876.

[Telegram, in cipher.]

FISH, *Washington*:

Fatal tumult at Salonica. French and German consuls slain. Great alarm here. General feeling of insecurity. Americans here and at Smyrna appeal for naval protection. Please send ship as per my dispatch sixty-three.

MAYNARD.

Received, May 12, 1876.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, May 12, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to inclose, for your information and such action as you may deem proper, a copy of a telegram received to-day from Mr. Maynard, minister of the United States at Constantinople, requesting that a naval vessel be sent for the protection of Americans.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

JOHN L. CADWALADER,

Acting Secretary.

Hon. GEORGE M. ROBESON,

Secretary of the Navy.

Inclosure.

Mr. Maynard to Mr. Fish, (telegram,) received May 12, '76.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,

Washington, May 16, 1876.

SIR: I have the honor to inquire what action has been taken by the Navy Department on a communication from this Department, dated the 12th instant, transmitting copy of a telegram from Mr. Maynard, minister of the United States at Constantinople, requesting that a naval vessel be sent for the protection of Americans.

In replying to Mr. Maynard's dispatch the Department desires to inform him what has been done in regard to his request for the vessel.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HAMILTON FISH.

Hon. GEORGE M. ROBESON,
Secretary of the Navy.

NAVY DEPARTMENT,
Washington, May 20, 1876.

SIR: In reply to your letter of the 16th instant, inquiring what action has been taken by the Navy Department on a communication from the Department of State of the 12th instant, transmitting a copy of a request from Mr. Maynard, minister of the United States at Constantinople, that a naval vessel be sent for the protection of Americans, I have the honor to inclose you a copy of a telegraphic dispatch received by this Department from Rear-Admiral J. L. Worden, U. S. N., commanding the United States naval force on the European station.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

GEO. M. ROBESON,
Secretary of the Navy.

Hon. HAMILTON FISH,
Secretary of State.

[Cable.]

MAY 15, 1876.

ROBESON, *Navy Department, Washington, D. C. :*

Sail for Salonica sixteenth. Affairs in Turkey alarming; minister urges haste. Increasing force suggested. Alaska not yet at Madeira.

WORDEN.

No. 58.]

DEPARTMENT OF STATE,
Washington, May 20, 1876.

SIR: I have to acknowledge the receipt, on the 12th instant, of your telegram, requesting that a naval vessel be sent for the protection of Americans at Constantinople and Smyrna. A copy of the telegram was transmitted immediately to the Secretary of the Navy, who sent orders by telegraph to Admiral Worden in accordance with your request. A reply has been received from Admiral Worden that he will sail immediately from Nice for Constantinople with his flag-ship, the Franklin.

A copy of your telegram as received is inclosed herewith.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

HAMILTON FISH.

HORACE MAYNARD, Esq., &c., &c., &c.

Inclosure.

Mr. Maynard to Mr. Fish, telegram received May 12, 1876.

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